



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

124 W. Michigan Avenue – Ninth Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

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MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Marchand
517-230-4904

Lansing's Maxine Hankins Cain to be Honored by Sister Cities International

Dr. Cain to be Recognized at the Organization's 2019 Volunteer of the Year

(LANSING) – Lansing Mayor Andy Schor today announced that Dr. Maxine Hankins Cain was honored by Sister Cities International as their 2019 Volunteer of the Year. The awards competition, which is open to over 500 sister city programs nationwide, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and community sister city programs that are promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation.

“Maxine has been a staple in the Sister Cities community here in Lansing for decades and I was thrilled to learn that she’s being recognized for her years of hard work on the behalf of the City and the Sister Cities Commission,” said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. “Her tireless commitment to fostering our relationships with our sister cities around the world have helped make Lansing the vibrant, diverse city that it is today. Congratulations to Maxine and I thank her very much for her years of dedicated service”.

Maxine Hankins Cain, Ed D, a Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission (LRSCC) member for 20 years, is a former teacher and school administrator who always stressed the importance of understanding global issues, cultures and languages. As an educator, Cain is recognized in Ghana for her educational and humanitarian leadership. She has led an effort to renovate K-12 schools in Nkyenne Nkyenne, Akuapem South District. In 2018, she had all three schools painted inside and out, purchased white boards, curriculum materials and computers and made a monetary gift to each teacher for their work.

Over the years, she has held numerous teacher training programs including at the Presbyterian Teacher Training College in Aburi, Ghana. She was active with both the SCI/Gates grant and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene grant from the US Department of State and helped identify three village sites for community latrines. She participated in fundraising for two 40-foot containers that included medical, X-ray and radiology supplies/equipment, computers, books, school equipment, bicycles, and farm equipment; in addition to her ride in a fully equipped ambulance from Lansing to

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Baltimore that was to be shipped to ship it to Ghana. She continues to lead her church and sorority's fundraising drives to benefit schools, orphanages, and clinics in Ghana.

"Maxine epitomizes the essence of the sister cities movement," praised Barbara Roberts Mason, Chair of the Lansing Sister Cities Commission. "She creates positivity through her passion to engage our community in citizen diplomacy and global challenges. Maxine embraces globalization and is a leader in celebrating the diversity of our region. We congratulate her in receiving this award are all enriched by her dedication, commitment and recognized leadership," Mason continued.

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